

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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CENTURY SURETY CO., :
Plaintiff, : 17-CV-0633 (JMF)
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-v- : ORDER
RUKH ENTERPRISES INC. et al, :
Defendants. :
:----- X

JESSE M. FURMAN, United States District Judge:

The parties consent to the Court conducting a bench trial in this matter. *See* ECF No. 31. The following schedule shall govern the further conduct of pretrial proceedings in this case:

1. By **April 18, 2022**, the parties shall file a Joint Pretrial Order, including any and all information relevant to the trial referenced in the Court's Individual Rules and Practices in Civil Cases (available at <https://nysd.uscourts.gov/hon-jesse-m-furman>) with respect to Joint Pretrial Orders.
2. At the same time, the parties shall each file Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law. As there may be no opportunity for post-trial submissions, the Proposed Findings of Fact should be detailed and should include citations to the proffered trial testimony and exhibits, and the Proposed Conclusions of Law shall include all law that the parties wish to submit to the Court. **The parties may not submit additional memoranda of law (before or after trial) without leave of Court.**
3. At the same time, the parties shall serve, *but not file*, affidavits constituting the direct testimony of each trial witness, except for the direct testimony of an adverse party, a person whose attendance is compelled by subpoena, or a person for whom the Court has agreed to hear direct testimony live at the hearing. Witness affidavits are subject to the same rules and restrictions as would apply in the case of live testimony (i.e., they are a direct substitute for the live direct testimony), so the parties should be diligent in complying with all applicable Rules of Evidence, including but not limited to the rules regarding hearsay, personal knowledge, and proper foundation (e.g., as to any evidence offered in connection with the witness's direct testimony). Additionally, Rule 615 of the Federal Rules of Evidence applies to the witness affidavits just as it would if the witnesses were providing live testimony in open court. That is, fact witnesses may not read any affidavit of another witness (unless and until the Court grants leave to do otherwise in accordance with Rule 615). It is counsel's obligation to ensure that witnesses are aware of, and comply with, that rule.
4. At the same time, the parties shall also serve, *but not file*, all deposition excerpts that will be offered as substantive evidence, as well as a one-page synopsis (with transcript citations) of

those excerpts for each deposition.

5. At the same time, the parties shall provide the Court with an electronic copy of each exhibit sought to be admitted (with each filename corresponding to the relevant exhibit number — e.g., “PX-1,” “DX-1,” etc.) on either a CD-ROM or a flash drive. If submission of electronic copies would be an undue burden on a party, the party may seek leave of Court (by letter-motion filed on ECF) to submit prospective documentary exhibits in hard copy. Each hard copy shall be pre-marked (that is, with an exhibit sticker) and assembled sequentially in a loose leaf binder (not to exceed 2 1/2 inches in thickness) or in separate manila folders labeled with the exhibit numbers and placed in redweld folders labeled with the case name and docket number. The parties shall also provide, by e-mail to the Court (Furman_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov), a Microsoft Word document listing all exhibits sought to be admitted. The list shall contain four columns labeled as follows: (1) “Exhibit Number”; (2) “Description” (of the exhibit); (3) “Date Identified”; and (4) “Date Admitted.” The parties shall complete the first two columns, but leave the third and fourth columns blank, to be filled in by the Court during trial.
6. Three business days after submission of the affidavits discussed above, counsel for each party shall file a list of all affiants whom he or she intends to cross-examine at the trial. Only those witnesses who will be cross-examined need to appear at trial. The original signed affidavits should be brought to trial to be marked as exhibits.
7. No later than **one week after the filing of the Joint Pretrial Order and related submissions**, the parties shall file any memorandum of law in response to the other side’s Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.
8. By the same date, each side shall file, with respect to each direct testimony affidavit submitted by the opposing side, a chart with three columns: (1) listing any paragraph number of the affidavit to which the side objects; (2) the text of the paragraph subject to objection; and (3) the basis for the objection (e.g., “hearsay,” “lack of personal knowledge,” “foundation,” “relevance,” etc.).
9. This matter is scheduled for trial beginning **Tuesday, March 24, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. That trial date should be treated as a firm date.** The Court will provide further guidance on the scheduling of a final pretrial conference after the parties make their pretrial submissions.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: February 18, 2022
New York, New York



JESSE M. FURMAN
United States District Judge